

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KATHMA 00622 131434Z

70

ACTION NEA-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 SAJ-01

SAB-01 ACDA-19 NIC-01 EB-11 INT-08 FEA-02 SCI-06

COME-00 CIEP-02 DRC-01 /204 W
----- 015829

R 130943Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7542

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USUN NEW YORK 158

USLO PEKING

USINT ALGIERS

C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 0622

DEPARTMENT PASS USINT CAIRO

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NP, XF

SUBJECT: NEPAL IN THE NON-ALIGNED

1. DURING MY CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER KARKI, FEBRUARY 12, HE
RAISED WITH ME ON A "PHILOSOPHICAL" BASIS PROBLEMS WHICH NEPAL
IS ENCOUNTERING IN MAINTAINING ITS BALANCED POSTURE ON MIDDLE
EAST PROBLEMS. KARKI SAID THAT DURING RECENT STATE VISIT OF
YUGOSLAV PRESIDENT TITO, GON HAD BEEN UNDER GREAT PRESSURE TO
TAKE POSITION FAVORABLE TO ARABS, AND IT WAS ONLY WITH GREAT
DIFFICULTY THAT IT HAD BEEN ABLE TO PURSUADE YUGOSLAVS TO
ACCEPT BALANCE STATEMENT IN COMMUNIQUE CALLING FOR IMPLEMENTATION
OF RESOLUTIONS 242, 338 AND 339. KARKI ADDED THAT DURING KING'S
EARLIER VISIT TO PEKING, HE HAD HAD TWO-HOUR CONVERSATION WITH
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PAGE 02 KATHMA 00622 131434Z

CHOU-EN-LAI, ONE HOUR OF WHICH HAD BEEN DEVOTED TO MIDDLE EAST IN

WHICH CHINESE HAD PRESSED NEPALESE ON QUESTION THEIR RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL.

2. KARKI ALSO SAID HE HAD HAD RECENT DISCUSSION WITH ISRAELI AMBASSADOR CASPI AND HAD TOLD HIM OF PRESSURES UNDER WHICH NEPAL LABORING. HE URGED CASPI TO COME UP WITH SUBSTANTIAL AID PACKAGE GOING BEYOND ONE OR TWO TECHNICAL ASSISTANTS WHICH ISRAELIS SEEMED PREPARED TO OFFER IN AREA OF CITRUS PRODUCTION AND EXTRACTION.

3. KARKI NOTED THAT HE WOULD BE ATTENDING MARCH 18 MEETING OF NON-ALIGNED COORDINATING BUREAU, AND HE ANTICIPATED NEPAL WOULD COME UNDER FURTHER PRESSURE AT THAT TIME. HE SAID ISSUE WAS ONE WHICH WAS BEING REVIEWED AT HIGHEST LEVELS IN GON.

4. I TOOK OCCASION OF FOREIGN MINISTER'S REMARKS TO STRESS TO HIM IMPORTANCE WE ATTACHED TO A BALANCED VIEW OF MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM. SETTLEMENT COULD NOT COME IF ALL COUNTRIES UNCRITICALLY BACKED ARAB POSITION. A PROCESS OF NEGOTIATION WAS ESSENTIAL BASED ON RECOGNITION THAT BOTH HAD DEGREE OF RIGHT ON THEIR SIDE. NEPAL HAD SKILLFULLY MAINTAINED BALANCED POSTURE WHICH WE BELIEVE WAS BOTH WISE AND REALISTIC. I URGED FOREIGN MINISTER TO MAKE CLEAR TO HIS COLLEAGUES IN GOVERNMENT THAT THIS WAS HARDLY THE MOMENT, WHEN ARABS WERE PENALIZING THIRD WORLD BY HIGHER PETROLEUM PRICES, TO MOVE CLOSER TO THEIR POLITICAL VIEWS ON

MIDDLE EAST. KARKI SAID HE WOULD USE THESE ARGUMENTS, BUT REITERATED HIS CONCERN ABOUT PROBLEM AND NEED WHICH HE FELT TO TAKE ON EARLY DECISION.

5. COMMENT: IT WOULD APPEAR FROM THIS DISCUSSION THAT GON IS REVIEWING STATUS OF ITS RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL. IT IS UNDER PRESSURE FROM BOTH ITS NEIGHBORS AND FROM LEADERS OF NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT TO MOVE CLOSER TO ARABS. FOR FIRST TIME NEPAL IS FACED WITH POSSIBLE NEED TO IMPORT PETROLEUM FROM ARAB COUNTRIES, SINCE INDIA HAS DECIDED TO LIMIT EXPORTS TO '72/73 LEVELS. GON WOULD PROBABLY BE RELUCTANT TO BREAK RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL, BUT IT IS NOT INCONCEIVABLE THAT NON-ALIGNED PRESSURE AND NEED FOR OIL WILL LEAD TO THIS CONCLUSION.

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PAGE 03 KATHMA 00622 131434Z

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED USINT CAIRO.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NONALIGNED NATIONS, PETROLEUM, IMPORTS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974KATHMA00622
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: KATHMANDU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740236/aaaabhtb.tel
Line Count: 108
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 JUN 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <02 JAN 2003 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEPAL IN THE NON-ALIGNED
TAGS: PFOR, NP, XF, IS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005